All Hands HERALD
January 2007
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Fire Services

Response to the Danvers Explosion on November 22, 2006

FEATURED ARTICLES

About the *All Hands Herald*

The ***All Hands Herald*** is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the ***All Hands Herald*** and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the ***All Hands Herald,*** contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us

Sue Peltier and Barry Hyvarinen are the talented contributing photographers; Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ◆

All Hands HERALD
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From the Fire Marshal

Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

January is a time of new beginnings. While at this writing the transition from Governor Romney's Administration to Governor Patrick's is in the early stages, we do know we will be saying good-bye to some old friends as we welcome Governor Patrick and his team. I would like to thank outgoing Public Safety Secretary Haas for his years of close partnership and support for fire service issues both as undersecretary and secretary. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Kevin Burke as the new Secretary of Public Safety. I look forward to working with him on issues that are important to the fire service and public safety. Further information on our new Secretary will be included in the next All Hands Herald.

The 17th annual Firefighter of the Year Awards were presented on October 26, 2006 in a moving ceremony at historic Faneuil Hall. It is certainly a special day when once a year we take a moment to acknowledge the best of the best in the fire service. Firefighters often approach what others call "acts of bravery and heroism" with a humble "I was just doing my job" reaction. It is true that you are just doing your job and following your training. Yet it is also true that your willingness to do such a dangerous job makes the world a safer and a better place for your neighbors. This ceremony gives the citizens of Massachusetts a chance to say thank you. I would like to add my heartfelt congratulations to each of the honorees.

Testing the HazMat System

The recent prolonged hazardous materials incidents in South Hadley and Danvers tested the ability of the statewide HazMat system to sustain operations for several days. They were complex incidents requiring a long-term commitment of people and resources that showed the system has a strong backbone. HazMat technicians from several other teams rotated through the incidents, seamlessly relieving each other. Leadership staff also rotated through relieving each other smoothly.

Leadership Development

The Department of Fire Services is building on the great success of last year's inaugural series of *Senior Fire Officer Forums.* We have scheduled another series of seven one-day training seminars by national experts in fire management and leadership. This is one part of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's effort to expand the fire officer training opportunities. As part of this initiative, the academy is also redeveloping the Chief Fire Officer Program.

17th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards

Praising them for their bravery and courage, Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey and Public Safety Secretary Robert C. Haas presented the *17th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards* on October 26, 2006 to firefighters from across the Commonwealth who have committed heroic acts of bravery over the past year.

"Each year I am proud to honor the Commonwealth's firefighters for tremendous acts of heroism and bravery," said Healey. "Without hesitation or regard for your own welfare, you answer the call to duty knowing only that someone in harm's way needs your help. I am humbled by the sense of duty you display and the pride you take in protecting your fellow citizens."

"Thanks to the quick, decisive and courageous actions of the men and women we honor today, people who most assuredly would have perished are still alive," said Haas. "Your devotion to duty and your thorough training have allowed you to save lives and earn the respect and admiration of those you serve."

In addition, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the Fire Marshal's award to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Garofalo and to Tomas

Continued on Page 2

DFS Staff Received Carballo Award

I would like to take a moment to say thank you and how proud I am of the hard-working DFS staff. We strive for excellence here and that effort was recently acknowledged by outsiders when the *Carbon Monoxide Implementation Group* were one of seven individuals and three groups to receive the state's highest honor for state employees, the *2006 Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service*. ◆

Recipients of the 17th Annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards

October 26, 2006

Medal of Honor

- Firefighter/EMT Eduardo Medina
  Firefighter/EMT David Rex
  Holyoke Fire Department
- Lt. Anthony Giampietro
  Revere Fire Department
- Captain Antonio Marfongelli
  Salem Fire Department

Medal of Valor

- FF James Drouin
  Amesbury Fire Department
- FF/Paramedic Eric J. Christopher
  Gloucester Fire Department
- FF Brian Whitney
  FF Kevin Fagerquist
  Concord Fire Department
- Lt. John Finn
  FF Christopher Kelley
  Revere Fire Department

Meritorious Conduct Award – Individuals

- Firefighter William Haugh
  Concord Fire Department
- FF Bill Vautour
  Fitchburg Fire Department

Meritorious Conduct Award - Groups

- Boston Fire Department Engine 56 - Lt. Kevin McCarthy, FF James Cushing, FF Lorenzo Thompson and FF Joseph Harris
- Chelsea Fire Department Engine 3 and Ladder 2 - Captain Paul Eaves, Lt. Charles Crowley, FF Jose Torres, FF Anthony Martins, FF William White and FF Michael Coyne
- Revere Fire Department
  Deputy Chief John Moschella, Captain Daniel Floyd, Captain Vincent Jesoraldo, Captain Gerald Picariello, Lt. John Carey, Lt. Frank Ferrante, Lt. Eugene Guinasso, FF Sean Bruno, FF Richard Clarke, FF Charles DelGreco, FF Brian Doherty, FF Stanley Ferragamo, FF Joseph Garbarino, FF Joseph Guarnera, FF Louis Iovine, FF Joseph Laurano, FF Richard LeBranti, FF Edward Russell, FF Jospeh Spallone
- Holyoke Fire Department - FF Michael Mclain, Deputy Chief Walter Nelson, Captain John McGillicuddy, FF/EMT Francisco Rivera, FF/EMT Sean Sylvester, Lt. Peter Lynch, FF/EMT James Wilson, FF Michael Leary, Lt. Shaun Peltier, FF Robert Sadowski, FF/EMT Eduardo Medina, FF/EMT David Rex, FF Thomas Cavanaugh, Lt. Marc Normandin, FF Christopher Stortz, Captain Joseph Beaulieu, FF Michael Clark, FF/EMT Cerruti, FF/EMT Heroindo Morales, FF Anthony Gazda, FF/EMT Brian Makiewicz, FF Richard Masse, Lt. Richard Ostiguy, FF John Petta, FF Michael Wolohan, Fire Alarm Operator William Dziok, Captain/EMT Jeffrey Przekopowski, Lt./EMT Thomas Paquin, Captain Paul Gubala
- Northbridge Fire Department Engine Company #4 - Deputy Chief Steven Dupre, Lt. James Gosselin, FF Frank Brackley, FF Michael Baker, Captain David M. White
- Salem Fire Department Division 4, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Harrington, Engine 1 – Lt. William Bresnahan, FF Pat Tobin, FF John O'Leary, Ladder 1, FF Bernard Szczechowicz, FF Frank DeFranco; Engine 4 – Lt. Richard Brennan, FF Robert Roderick, FF John Thomas; Engine 5 – Lt. John Mento, FF Paul Gallant, FF Tom Tremblay;
  Engine 2 –Lt. Bruce Silva, FF Jeff Cosbar, FF Charles Campanaro

Fire Marshals' Special Appreciation Award

- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Garofalo
  Carbon monoxide detector legislation
- Tomas, Mary, Sean and Liam Kearney and Deirdre Howard
  Fire Safe Cigarette legislation ◆

Firefighter of the Year

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Kearney. The Garofalos, of Plymouth, lost their 7-year-old daughter, Nicole, to carbon monoxide poisoning in Jan. 2005. Following Nicole's death, they lobbied for passage of "Nicole's Law," which requires carbon monoxide alarms in most homes. Tomas Kearney accepted his award on behalf of his family, who worked to ensure passage of fire-safe cigarette legislation in Massachusetts this past year. The Kearney family lost five members and a close family friend in a 1990 Roslindale fire caused by an improperly discarded cigarette.

Coan said, "These two families poured the pain of personal tragedy into the fight to make the Commonwealth safer for all its citizens. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with these families to pass these two pieces of landmark legislation." ◆

Lt. Gov. Healey, Revere Lt. Giampietro, State Fire Marshal Coan, Revere Fire Chief Doherty

DFS Hosts NASFM Pipeline Safety Meeting

There are some 21,943 miles of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines in Massachusetts. These pipelines include large-diameter lines carrying energy products to population centers, as well as small-diameter lines that may deliver natural gas to businesses and households.

This is why over 100 first responders, pipeline operators and public safety officials gathered at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA on October 31 for the first statewide Massachusetts Pipeline Safety Meeting. This special event was sponsored by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA), and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS). The purpose of the statewide meeting was to encourage a shared responsibility for pipeline safety in the state.

"Bringing pipeline owners and operators, regulators, code enforcement officials and first responders together will enhance the public's safety," said State Fire Marshal, Stephen D. Coan. "The Massachusetts fire service has successfully used joint pre-planning and multi-agency training in many other high-hazard areas such as hazardous material response, mass casualty incidents, and response to acts of terrorism," added the Fire Marshal.

Several Massachusetts public officials and business members participated in this one-day event. Nickolas Stavropoulos, Executive Vice President, KeySpan Corporation and

Chiefs at Pipeline Safety Meeting

President of KeySpan Energy, was the keynote speaker. Christopher Bourne, Director of Pipeline Safety for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, spoke about the state's regulatory role in pipeline safety as well as moderated a panel on current pipeline industry initiatives in Massachusetts. This panel included: Kevin Doherty and David Fancher, Buckeye Partners LP**;** Jose Costa, the Northeast Gas Association (NGA); Joe Boudreau, NSTAR; and Jack Doran, Duke Energy.

Other speakers included Michael Dankanich, with DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, who gave an overview of federal regulations on pipeline operator public awareness programs, and Chris Christopolous, Callan and Company, who provided an overview of NASFM's *Pipeline Emergencies Training Program*. This training program equips experienced instructors to teach the pipeline safety curriculum to emergency responders in their regions. The course helps emergency responders understand pipeline operations, common products transmitted and distributed through them, and tactical response guidelines to deal with accidents. For additional information on-line, please visit www.pipelineemergencies.com.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will again be hosting NASFM's *Pipeline Emergencies Training Program* on January 25, 2007. More details may be found in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy catalogue or on-line at www. mass. gov/dfs/mfa.

"Pipelines are important to both our state and national economy and security," Coan said. "However, there are still risks in the transportation process. These meetings and training programs bring together all of the stakeholders to make sure they run smoothly and safely through our communities." ◆

Pipeline Conference

Fire Investigation Unit

Not a Merry Christmas

Jose Silva has been convicted of deliberately setting the December 23, 2003 fire at 62 Wallis Street in Peabody. He was sentenced to two to five years at MCI Cedar Junction. The investigative team was made up of investigators from the Peabody Fire Department, Peabody Police Department and State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's North Team in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. It was successfully prosecuted by the Essex District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Silva, a former school bus driver, attempted to burn down his own house by setting fire to a Christmas tree and turning on without lighting the gas burners. His wife and two children were home at the time. Mrs. Silva apparently awoke and extinguished the fire but did not report it until the next day.

The Peabody Fire and Police Departments have been developing their local cause and origin investigation skills. As part of this initiative, the city sent two fire department investigators to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for advanced training in fire investigation. They have been implementing the successful witness-driven team-concept of fire investigation championed by the Department of Fire Services. This method of fire investigation has a demonstrated track record of successful fire cause determinations and arson prosecutions. This case is yet another example. ◆

Not a Happy 4th of July or Halloween

On October 30, 2006, Nick Lampros and Gregory Cole were convicted of wanton destruction of property, unlawful possession of fireworks and disturbing the peace, but not of negligent burning of property. The charges resulted from an illegal fireworks show the two neighbors had on July 3, 2005 that caused $50,000 in fire damage to another neighbor's boat (parked in the driveway), lawn and home.

Fortunately the neighbors were not home at the time of the fire. The year before, only the neighbor's lawn had caught fire during the annual illegal fireworks show.

Lampros, a sergeant with the Essex County House of Correction, was also ordered to perform 250 hours of community services, sentenced to probation for one year, fined and order to pay restitution to the Rowley Fire Department and to the victims. Mr. Cole's case was continued without a finding for one year. There is also a civil case pending against both defendants by the victims of the fire. This is another example of a good team investigaton by the Rowley Fire and Police and the FIU North Team. ◆

Pembroke Fatal Fire Caused by Unattended Candle

The most probable cause of the early morning October 30, 2006 fatal fire at 5 Kilcommons Drive in Pembroke was determined to be an unattended candle. The fire took the life of a 23-year old woman who lived in the apartment. ◆

Nantucket Arsonist Caught

Christopher Metcalfe, age 53, was arrested in October 2006 for allegedly burning the harbormaster's new pick-up truck on October 4 at the Nantucket Town Dock. The joint investigation by the Nantucket Fire Department, the Nantucket Police Department and State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team in the Office of the State Fire Marshal continued. Metcalfe was subsequently charged with three additional motor vehicle arsons that all occurred on November 15, 2004. Metcalfe had been released on $1,000 bail on the first arson charge and was released on personal recognizance for the second series of arson charges. ◆

Cambridge Transformer Explosion

On December 14, 2006, Cambridge Fire Chief Gerald R. Reardon and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced that their joint investigation into the December 8, 2006 transformer explosion at One Broadway in Cambridge had concluded. After completing the scene examination and interviews, including the one surviving but injured NSTAR employee, the team has concluded that the transformer explosion was a tragic accident. While the investigators have ruled out any criminal act, they are not able determine if human error, procedural error or a malfunction of safety mechanisms was the specific cause.

Two NSTAR employees were working on the transformer at the time of the explosion and one was killed and one was injured. Dozens of the building's occupants were also treated at local hospitals. Smoke penetrated the stairwells making escape from the high-rise building difficult.

The cause and origin investigation

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Suspicious Person Impersonating a Firefighter

Timothy MacDonald

DOB 12/27/83
W/M 5'11"
"AKA Rescue Pimp"
"AKA Rescue Q Pimp"

Timothy MacDonald is suspected of misrepresenting himself as a firefighter and suspected of gaining access to incident scenes where operations were being conducted. It is further suspected that he has gained access to facilities and training that is slated for official firefighters. It is recommended that fire departments be aware of suspicious individuals at incident scenes.

Over a span of eight months MacDonald has signed-up for over thirty Public Safety classes and has attended two of the classes. In the past month MacDonald represented himself as a New Hampshire firefighter trying to gain access to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recruit program.

MacDonald is suspected of obtaining firefighting and police equipment through false pretenses. It is believed that he placed orders through a police and fire supply company and had the equipment billed to the police and fire departments.

On July 28, 2005 Timothy MacDonald is suspected of appearing after an incident at South Station in Boston. In a crowded concourse he proceeded to don his firefighting equipment from a large duffel bag including firefighter turnout gear, boots, bunker pants, jacket, black leather helmet, SCBA tank, pack and a mask. MacDonald represented himself as a Mattapoisett firefighter and a Massachusetts Firefighter Academy recruit trainee to a state trooper and Amtrak officer. Investigation revealed that MacDonald is not a member of any fire department in Massachusetts nor is he a recruit trainee at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

Refer to the DHS bulletin issued on August 10, 2004 "Potential Terrorist Use of Official Identification, Uniforms, or Vehicles". Officials are reminded to secure their stations, vehicles, badges, uniforms and equipment. By securing assets of the department, officers and firefighters are reducing access to sensitive areas and the possibility of stolen equipment.

If you have any similar instances or information on Timothy MacDonald please contact Lieutenant Kevin McMahon, State Fire Marshal's Office Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit at 978-567-3330 or Kevin.McMahon@state.ma.us ◆

COMMONWEALTH FUSION CENTER
470 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01702
Phone: 508-820-2129 Fax: 508-820-2128
fusion@pol.state.ma.us

Cambridge Transformer Explosion

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was jointly conducted by investigators from the Cambridge Fire Department, the Cambridge Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Assistance was received from the Mass. Department of Telecommunications and Energy and State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is also investigating the incident.

Code compliance officers from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Cambridge Fire Prevention Officers have identified the point at which the smoke entered the fresh air ductwork. They have issued an order of notice to the buildings owners to hire mechanical and life safety engineers to design and implement corrective measures before the building can be re-occupied. ◆

Danvers Explosion Investigation

On November 29, 2006, fire, law enforcement and environmental officials held a press conference to jointly announced the next phase of the investigation into the November 22, 2006 explosion on Water Street in Danvers. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Danvers Fire Chief James Tutko, and Special Agent Andrew Anderson of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that they were releasing the scene to federal EPA who will be spearheading and coordinating the remediation and chemical investigative effort.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "The investigative team has found no evidence that the explo-

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New Law Provides Benefits for 9/11 Workers & Volunteers: Registration Open for a Year

By Jonathan Bennett

Thanks to a new law, most people who performed rescue, recovery or cleanup work after the collapse of the World Trade Center are now eligible to register with the Workers' Compensation Board. Anyone who is registered that develops a 9/11-related illness at any time in the future will be eligible to file a workers' compensation claim. Failure to register by August 14, 2007 will make it impossible to file a claim, even if the worker develops a 9/11-related illness.

Manhattan after the attack on the World Trade Center who are ill, and those who were exposed to toxic substances and may become ill in the future, until August 14, 2007 to register with the New York State Worker' s Compensation Board.

Some workers and volunteers have been prevented from getting compensation because they only began to become sick after the two-year deadline for filing a claim. Others who were exposed to the toxic atmosphere in lower Manhattan performed any rescue, recovery or cleanup work off-duty, as a volunteer.

Anyone who has already filed a claim for 9/11-related workers' compensation and been turned down because the claim was filed after the two-year filing deadline had passed can register and file a new claim under the new law.

Workers who have already filed for workers' compensation for injuries suffered during the rescue, recovery

***Thanks to a new law,** most people who performed rescue, recovery or cleanup work after the collapse of the World Trade Center are now eligible to register with the **Workers' Compensation Board**.*

"Now all those who did rescue, recovery or cleanup work after 9/11 have an opportunity to ensure that if they ever become ill as a result, their medical expenses will be covered one hundred percent," said Joel Shufro, Executive Director of the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health. "But for that to happen they need to register within a year. I urge anyone who did paid or unpaid work in Lower Manhattan after 9/11, whether sick or healthy, to find out about eligibility requirements and register. Working in partnership with the National Disaster Ministries of the United Church of Christ we have launched a major campaign to inform all workers and volunteers about the new program."

The new law permits workers and volunteers who worked in lower

are healthy now, but may develop a 9/11-related disease in the future. Under the old rules, they would also have been prevented from receiving benefits.

The law applies to most people who did paid or unpaid rescue, recovery or cleanup work in lower Manhattan south of Canal or Pike Streets between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 12, 2002. It also applies to rescue, recovery or cleanup workers who worked at the Staten Island landfill, the barge operation between Manhattan and Staten Island or the New York City morgue, and temporary morgues. The only workers who are not covered are those who are not in the workers' compensation system: NYC uniformed services (firefighters, police, sanitation workers), NYC teachers and federal employees. But those workers are eligible if they

or cleanup operation should register in case they develop a 9/11-related condition that is different from the basis of their established claim. An already-established claim does not cover the new condition. The registration must be notarized and indicate the dates and locations of the rescue, recovery or cleanup work performed and the employer's name, or the organization for whom the volunteer worked, if applicable.

"It is imperative that anyone who worked within the boundaries or at the sites detailed in the law register with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board whether they are sick or not," said Shufro. "By joining the registry before the deadline, a year from now, workers and volunteers will preserve their rights

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Recognition Event Held at DFS

Secretary of Public Safety, Robert Haas, attended a recognition event held at DFS on September 19, 2006, to present DFS with two *Public Safety Meritorious Achievement Awards* for work on both the Fire Safety Act of 2004 and work on the development of carbon monoxide regulations under "Nicole's Law." In addition, as August 2006 marked the second anniversary of the signing of the Fire Safety Act of 2004, members of the *Secretary's Task Force on Fire & Building Safety* were invited to the ceremony.

Capt. Stone, Sec. Haas, Marshal Coan

Patrick Lyons, Sec. Haas, S. Coan

This task force was convened as a result of the tragic Warwick, R.I. nightclub fire, and their recommendations resulted in significant changes to the Massachusetts fire code and the passage of landmark legislation. This comprehensive and innovative set of new laws has had a dramatic impact on fire and building safety, particularly in the area of nightclub safety and fire prevention. The Secretary of Public Safety presented signed copies of the Chapter 304 legislation, as a token of the Commonwealth's appreciation, to the following:

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, accepted on behalf of the Department of Fire Services;

Commissioner Thomas Gatzunis, accepting on behalf of the Department of Public Safety;

Chief William Scoble, President, Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, accepting on behalf of the FCAM;

Captain Barbara Stone, President, Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts, accepting on behalf of FPAM;

Mr. Patrick Lyons, The Lyons Group, who represented nightclub owners on the task force;

Mr. Bruce Montgomery, Tweeter Center for Performing Arts, who represented large venue operators on the task force;

Edward V. Colbert III, Looney & Grossman, who assisted the task force with pro bono legal services.

The Fire Marshal then surprised the Secretary of Public Safety by presenting him with a signed copy of the legislation as well. Mr. Lyons made a very passionate speech about the importance of fire safety in nightclubs and discussed how participating in the task force had been part of a personal journey in his understanding about fire and appreciation of the value of fire prevention. ◆

Carballo Award for Excellence in Public Service

The Carbon Monoxide Implementation Group has been selected for this award because of their work on "Nicole's Law," requiring carbon monoxide alarms in all residences with potential sources of carbon monoxide. Upon passage of this legislation, the Department of Fire Service's Carbon Monoxide Implementation Group began the implementation process through education and training of public officials and the general public. Training sessions were held throughout the Commonwealth to educate local fire departments on the new regulations and the dangers of carbon monoxide. The group created public service announcements that had the ability to reach every citizen in the Commonwealth. Between 2005 and 2006, the rate of reported carbon monoxide calls increased; a direct result of the Implementation Group's efforts to increase the public's knowledge about the dangers of carbon monoxide and the importance of alarms in residential homes. ◆

T. Rodrique, S. Coan, P. Senopoulos, J. Mieth, S. Rourke, T. Leonard, D. Beaudin, L. McDonald

Radiation Reporting Responsibilities

The following is the text of an October 3, 2006 communication from Dr. Robert Walker, Director of the U.S. Department of Public Health's, Center for Environmental Health, Radiation Control Program, to potential responders to incidents involving nuclear or radiological material. The fire service is certainly among the potential responders.

Dear Response Partner:

I am writing to inform you of a recent clarification in the Massachusetts Regulations for the Control of Radiation (MRCR) that affects your responsibilities as a response partner to potential incidents involving nuclear/radiological material. It involves an important notification that is required to be made if/when unexpected radioactive material is detected or suspected anyplace within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Under the authority of M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 3, 5M, 5N, 5O, 5P, a new paragraph has been added to the MRCR as 105 CMR 120. 012(B), which states: "Any source of radiation that is found or detected by any person and that is not under the physical or administrative control of a licensee or registrant, and that is not excluded, exempted or otherwise authorized under the provisions of 105 CMR 120.000, shall be immediately reported to the Radiation Control Program."

This requirement has been implicit in the regulations before, but has now been clarified as a requirement that continues to broadly apply to "any person." "Person" is defined in both law and regulation as: "any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency of the commonwealth other than the department, any political subdivision of the commonwealth, any other state or political subdivision or agency thereof, and any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing, but not including federal government agencies." Under this broad definition, person includes all fire departments.

Over the past five years, many fire departments have obtained radiation detection instruments and nuclear/radiological incident response training. However, two important attributes that make radiation sources unique, regulation and classification, have not been uniformly emphasized by all trainers. Therefore, we're hoping this clarification on fire department notification will serve to promote a new wave of awareness and partnership between the Radiation Control Program's action arm, its Nuclear Incident Advisory Team (NIAT), and fire departments throughout the commonwealth.

The Radiation Control Program's Nuclear Incident Advisory Team is available at all times by calling the following numbers, as indicated:

- Mon-Fri, 9 to 5: 617-242-3035 and 617-242-3453 – Ask for the Officer of the Day
- 24/7/365: 617-242-3453 - Rings through to the State Police after-hours
- 508-820-2000 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- 508-820-2121 - Massachusetts State Police (direct line)

Please don't delay in updating your nuclear/radiological incident response procedures and training protocols to include this important notification and contact information. If you have any questions, require additional information, or need any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

I look forward to enhancing our partnership which serves to protect our responders and public health, safety and security and the environment from harmful sources of ionizing radiation.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and attention to this matter.◆

New Law Provides for 9/11 Workers & Volunteers

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to benefits. Failure to register within the next twelve months will prevent individuals who may develop cancer or other slow starting diseases some years from now to receive benefits."

For information about registering and filing claims, visit the NYCOSH website at **http://www.nycosh.org/#911WC** **http://www.nycosh.org/environment_wtc/WTC/911WCrev818.pdf.**

Or call

(212) 227-6440 ext. 23 (for English)

or

(212) 227-6440 ext. 24 (for Spanish).

NYCOSH is a non-profit provider of occupational safety and health training, advocacy and information to workers and unions throughout the New York metropolitan area. Our membership consists of more than 250 union organizations and 400 individuals: union members, health and safety activists, injured workers, healthcare workers, attorneys, public health advocates, environmentalists and concerned citizens. ◆

"It is imperative that anyone who worked within the boundaries or at the sites detailed in the law register with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board whether they are sick or not,"

CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: www.cpsc.gov

Recalls

Batteries

10/17/06 07-008

ARC Lithium Ion Bicycle Light Batteries

GP Batteries International Ltd.

The battery can overheat, posing a fire or burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07008.html

Blower/Vacuum

10/10/06 07-005

Black & Decker BV4000 Type 1 Blower/Vacuum

Black & Decker

A loose connection between the blower/Vacuum & an extension cord can cause overheating, posing a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07005.html

Boiler

10/31/06 07-020

Weil-McLain Ultra Series Gas Boilers

Weil-McLain

These boilers were manufactured for use with natural gas, but may have been incorrectly tagged with a blue tag indicating that they are intended to be used with LP (propane) gas. If run on propane without the proper propane conversion kit, CO can build up due to incomplete combustion, posing a risk of CO poisoning.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07020.html

Camera

9/5/06 06-250

Olympus-Brand 35mm Film Cameras

Olympus Imaging of America

A defect with the flash circuit in these cameras can cause it to smoke & overheat when the camera is turned on posing a burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06250.html

Children's Bathrobe

9/19/06 06-260

"Que Cute" Children's Bathrobes

Roden Industries Inc.

These bathrobes fail to meet the children's sleepwear flammability standard, & pose a burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06260.html

Coffee Brewer

10/17/06 07-006

Starbucks Barista Aroma ™ Stainless Steel 8-Cup Coffee Brewers

Starbucks Coffee Company

The coffee brewer has defective electrical wiring that can result in overheating, smoking, burning & melting, posing a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07006.html

Computer Batteries

9/28/06 06-270

Rechargeable, lithium-ion batteries used in ThinkPad notebook computers Lenovo Inc. & IBM Corp.

These lithium-ion batteries can cause overheating, posing a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06270.html

10/23/06 07-011

Rechargeable, lithium-ion batteries containing Sony cells used in Fujitsu Computer Systems Corp, Gateway, Sony & Toshiba notebook computers

Sony Energy Devices Corp.

These lithium-ion batteries can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07011.html

Copier

9/18/06 06-259

Canon Desktop Copier

Canon Inc.

An improperly fitting electrical connection inside the copiers can cause overheating, smoking & fire.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06259.html

Costume

10/31/06 07-021

"Creepy Cape" Halloween Costumes

TONY Development & Manufacturing

These vinyl capes fail to meet the standard for the flammability of vinyl plastic film, posing a fire and burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07021.html

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Espresso Maker

11/1/06 07-022

Espresso Express Espresso Makers

Atico International USA, Inc.

The maker's heating element can forcefully separate from its base during the brewing cycle posing a burn injury hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07022.html

Extension Cord

9/13/06 06-256

Extension Cord

Pride Products Corp.

The counterfeit extension cords have undersized wiring & no fuse to provide over-current protection, which can cause overheating & a possible fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06256.html

Gas Fire Pit

10/5/06 07-004

Outdoor Gas Fire Pits

Agio International

If the regulator hose for the propane cylinder contacts the burner during use, the hose can rupture, presenting a risk of a fire outside of the unit.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07004.html

Gas Grill

9/13/06 06-257

John Deere Gas Barbecue Grills

Onward Manufacturing

Operating the grill in windy conditions can blow the flame under the control panel, causing the grill to overheat or cause flashbacks. This can also result in damage to the hose that supplies gas to the burner, causing an uncontrolled flame.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06257.html

RC Helicopter

11/9/06 07-031

Helix Remote-Control Micro Helicopter

Spin Master Toys

The power supply controller can overheat posing a burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07031.html

Tent

10/17/06 07-007

2006 Quechua Tents & Canopies

Decathlon USA

The tents may fail to meet the industry's flame resistant standard, posing a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07007.html

Water Heater

9/7/06 06-252

Delta Performance (Plus) Series Combination Water Heaters

Triangle Tube/Phase III

The burner plate & flue hood seal can fail due to an improper seal causing a leak of flue gases & carbon monooxide.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06252.html

Water Pump

10/25/06 07-018

Goulds Pumps, Bell & Gossett & Red Jacket Water Products Pumps for Fire Suppression Systems

ITT Water Technology Inc.

A mechanical part was not fully secured, which can lead to the pump failing during use. If pumps sold with fire suppression systems fails, the risk of fire damage increases. The pump itself does not pose a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07018.html

Winch

11/8/06 07-027

Warn ATV & Utility Vehicle Winch Kits

Warn Industries Inc.

A component of the winch kit, the 8-post contactor, can continue to pull current when in the 'off' position, which can cause it to overheat & pose a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07027.html ◆

Releases

10/26/06 07-019

Winter Home Heating Hazards & Reminder to Replace Smoke & CO Detector Batteries

Schedule a professional inspection of all fuel-burning heating systems & remember to replace smoke & CO detector batteries.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07019.html ◆

MA Firefighting Academy

Flammable Gas Training at the MFA

by Richard M. Swartz, Coordinator of Flammable Gas Training

In 1992 the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) opened the Flammable Gas Training Field in the upper section of the academy. This facility came into existence through a partnership that still exists. The New England Gas Association (now the Northeast Gas Association or NGA) along with the Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE), partnered with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to create and maintain the best and busiest flammable gas training area in the country. The facility stores and allows training with both liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); natural gas is also available from the local distribution system. Many props create a challenge for students attending the training.

Photo by Barry Hyvarinen

Our students are varied. From the fire service we train recruit firefighters, experienced firefighters, and command officers. We train the members of the NGA along with private industry workers, that either work in a facility or on the street including supervisors. Members of the propane industry from PGANE, Coast Guard personnel and other government officials have come to the MFA for this training. Our students have come from as far away as Puerto Rico and we have been known to entertain guests from other countries.

The Gas Programs training unit offers many different programs for municipal firefighters. Some programs are classroom only that are designed to be interactive so that a level of student involvement is maintained. Some classes include both classroom instruction and hands-on training. Some are designed to be hands-on only. We also are able to design or alter courses so that they can better reflect the hazards that the students attending the training will encounter in their own communities.

Training the Industry

Private industry members are also regular attendees at the gas field. Ten times a year classes are given for the Northeast Gas Association. Members of the organization, as well as staff from gas companies and LNG facilities throughout the country attend a two-day training program. Day one is a six-hour all classroom review of the gases, their

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International Experts Present at Massachusetts Homeland Security Conference

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services hosted a conference for public safety first responders, firefighters, public health officials, police, emergency managers, hazardous devices technicians and emergency medical service providers on how to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The conference took place on November 30-December 1, 2006 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, 219 Littleton Road (Route 110), Westford, MA. This conference drew together some of the world's leading experts on the issues surrounding terrorist acts.

Among the presenters were Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety Robert C. Haas. Secretary Haas, who serves as the Homeland Security Advisor for the Governor, is responsible for management of a variety of agencies directly involved in homeland security including the Massachusetts National Guard, the Department of State Police, the Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Correction and manages a budget in excess of $1 billion dollars.

"This conference provides the first responder community an opportunity to learn from terrorism experts, to share best practices and to discuss lessons learned during real life emergency situations," said Secretary Haas. "We need our first responders to be ready to hit the

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ground running when they are called into action and this conference will help them do just that."

Featured speakers included:

- Dr. Brian Schwartz, MD, CCFP (EM) F, Director, Sunnybrook-Osler Centre for Prehospital Care, Toronto, Ontario spoke on the SARS outbreak;
- Armando Bevelaqua, District Chief, Special Operations, Orlando Fire Dept.; who spoke on applying risk-based chemistry and toxicology to hazardous materials responses;
- Robert W. Norville and Thomas K. Warnock, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program prepared emergency medical responders to identify exposure to chemical weapons and provide initial treatment;
- Albert H. Fluman, Director National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center discussed integration of NIMS as the community level;
- Capt. James L. McDonald Jr., Boston Sector Commander U.S. Coast Guard;
- Michael Russas, who served as the Preparedness Coordinator for the Division of Homeland Security in the Executive Office of Public Safety, Office of Homeland Security.

Other featured speakers included:

- Chief James Nicholas Russo, ret., federal coordinating officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency spoke on incident management and the Katrina Hurricane response;
- Lt. Joseph J. Leonard Jr., U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, Galveston, Texas spoke on lessons learned in the Katrina hurricane response;
- Deputy Chief Robert Zalewski, Chelsea Fire Department, spoke on a common sense approach to counter-terrorism response;
- Firefighter/ Paramedic Walter Guertin, Attleboro Fire Department, recently returned from Iraq spoke on improvised explosive device evident collection, analysis and countermeasures;
- Michael V. Hunter, Calhoun County Alabama Joint Terrorism Task Force spoke on the fundamentals of WMD crime scene management;
- Dr. Hayden Duggan of the On-Site Academy discussed post-combat recovery and reintegration of first responders in the war on terrorism;
- Scott Kenfield, coordinator of the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) outlined their capabilities;
- Mass. State Police Tpr. Eric Gahagan, Hazardous Device Technician assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal spoke on liquid explosives recognition;
- Thomas F. O'Connell, MS, is a Certified Health Officer with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency and spoke on dealing with radioactive materials;
- Gordon Diotalevi, Assistant Coordinator for Hazardous Material Counterterrorism Group Training and members of the DFS staff ran a multi-agency incident command simulation;
- Ronald Peimer and Amy Hamel of the NI2 Center for Infrastructure Expertise spoke on their new CARVER2™ software for protecting critical infrastructure.
- Kerra Noyes and Melissa Macaione, of the State Police Fusion Center, presented on how the center collects and analyzes information. ◆

Mobile Command Training Simulation Unit

Makes Debut at Homeland Security Conference!

The Department of Fire Services has accepted delivery of a new mobile unit designed to be used for fire officer command training. The unit, a 53-foot long transportable high technology classroom in a tractor-trailer, has been developed to give command officers of multiple disciplines the opportunity to experience exposure to electronically simulated emergency events and

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Inside the Command SIM Unit

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catastrophes. Command officers will interactively participate in making live command decisions via computer workstations running incident simulation software that displays what would be seen by individual commanding officers at an incident. The mobile classroom will accommodate up to 19 command officers simultaneously, each with their own workstation, two-way radios and telephones as well as the ability to change the actions taken by the unit they are commanding. All command officers will participate in their aspect of the same incident with the repercussions of their decisions, lack of decisions and actions affecting the other participants in the incident simulation and the escalation or escalations of an incident.

Simulations can be developed to reflect what could happen in their geographical areas of responsibility including actual photographs and panoramic views of buildings, structures and facilities that exist in their jurisdictions. Simulation developers can add realistic smoke, fire, explosion and sound effects to photos to enhance the reality of simulations.

Responders log in at their computer workstation and the instructor then places them "on scene" when appropriate in the incident for the role they are playing. Each responder will role-play their assigned position and interact with other units or disciplines on scene or remote from the scene. The instructor can dynamically evolve the incident, which immediately updates responders' views based on their scene location and function. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) can also create custom scenarios from its own digital photos, videos, and even interactive simulated equipment.

The simulations are developed utilizing Macromedia Flash 8, CommandSIM simulation software, Adobe Photoshop plus photographs and panoramas taken with high-resolution digital cameras. A computer server room in the mobile classroom serves individual aspects of the simulation to each workstation displaying what real life individual command units would see. A wide display at one end of the classroom and an overhead projector at the other end display the incident or what the coordinating instructor and the simulation technical operator chooses.

The mobile classroom can operate under its own power via a self contained diesel generator or via plug in power when it is available and has air conditioners and heating units to accommodate multiple environmental conditions, plus web access via satellite dish and can be used in an emergency as a mobile command center.

The Mobile Command Training Simulation Unit had its first trial run at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Department of Fire Services sponsored Homeland Security Conference on November 30-December 1, 2006. The MFA plans to begin use of the Command SIM in the Spring of 2007, and it will be used in different program including, National Incident Management System and Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS), fire officer training, hazardous materials teams, incident management team training, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) training exercises, and the industrial programs. The Command SIM Unit will be a good platform for bringing your ordinary tabletop exercise to the next level by adding simulation.◆

Command SIM Unit

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properties, how they react, and how to handle them. Experienced lecturers use visual re-enforcement and video presentations and encourage student feedback and interaction to make this a valuable training day. Day two is an all hands-on day. The day starts with a quick review and a safety talk on the day's operations and an intense review of how to safely use the extinguishers that they will be using during the training day. The students are then all outfitted with standard firefighting protective equipment. The entire ensemble plus nomex hoods are required at all times while the participants are operating or in the hot zone of the training yard. At times some of the gas company attendees are also members of fire departments. All of their protective gear is inspected and as long it meets the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and is not compromised, they are allowed to use their own gear, however we do have a higher standard for helmets. In the gas field we require face protection while the NFPA's standard only calls for eye protection. During day two training both LNG and LPG are used. The students operate fire hoses to dilute and divert gas vapor. They use dry-chemical fire extinguishers to extinguish burning LNG and LPG, and they also use wheeled unit fire extinguishers to extinguish LNG fires under pressure. At the end of the day, a critique is held and the students complete evaluations that are used to update and modify the program to keep it current and pertinent.

Photo by Barry Hyvarinen

The Propane Gas Association of New England conducts a three-day program annually at the academy. Day one and two are classroom only presented through the association's instructors with interaction and assistance from MFA instructors. Day three is a hands-on training day using the LPG props in the gas field including the LPG rail car that was donated by PGANE. The hands-on day is conducted in the same manner as the NGA day-two with the exception that only LPG is used.

We also conduct specialized training sessions for different organizations. This fall was especially busy with the Everett Fire Department training their entire department as well as training for Coast Guard personnel. We also assisted with a study of the effect of the thermal output of LNG on humans.

FIRE Act Training

The Everett Fire Department, using a federal FIRE Act grant with assistance from Distrigas, conducted two days of training for each of their four work groups. All members of the department participated from rookie firefighters to seasoned firefighters, from line officers to command officers, including support staff and the chief. Members of the United States Coast Guard and some members of the Revere Fire Department attended with the Everett Department. Day one started in the classroom where the basic properties of LNG and other pertinent information were presented. Other subjects like metering and high expansion foam were also covered. An overview of the hands-on portion of training was reviewed. After the classroom session, students proceeded to the drill yard where they practiced extinguishing a pool of burning LNG using dry chemical fire extinguishers. The other subjects covered in this session included comparing a blitz gun to a master stream appliance for effectiveness

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2006 - 2007 Senior Fire Officer Forums

The Department of Fire Services is once again offering a series of six special presentations for Massachusetts senior fire officials.

This year the Department of Fire Services is proud to present the Senior Fire Officer Forum, an educational series to develop leadership and command skills in the fire service. The Senior Fire Officer Forum includes six seminars for senior fire officers presented by nationally known experts starting November 2006 and running through May 2007. All of the forums will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but a fee will be charged for lunch. The series is open to all fire departments throughout Massachusetts, however **advanced registration is required!** Register online at *www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa* or fax a MFA registration form to (978) 567- 3229

Most of the seminars will be held at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, Massachusetts. Directions, may be found at www.DevensCommonCenter.com. Some of the seminars will be held at Gamble Auditorium at Mount Holyoke College. For directions log onto www.mtholyoke.edu. The first seminar was held in November and the second in November. What follows is the schedule of the remaining forums in the series.

2006-2007 Senior Fire Officer Forum Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 11, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Store (Taxpayer & Strip Mall) Fires & Fire Behavior & Firefighter Survival

Speaker: Deputy Assistant Chief John Norman, FDNY
Location: Devens Common Center Buffet Lunch Cost: $15.00 (pre-registration required)

Thurs., Mar. 8, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Routine Emergencies Can Be Deadly

Speaker: Chief Frank Montagna, FDNY (Invited)
Location: Devens Common Center Buffet Lunch Cost: $15.00 (pre-registration required)

Sat., Mar. 24, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Emergency Vehicle Response Seminar

Speaker: Lt. Mike Wilbur, FDNY (Invited) Location: TBA

Thurs., May 10, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Empowering Your People: Leadership For Today's Fire Service

Speaker: Chief Cecil V. "Buddy" Martinette, Lynchburg, VA *(Invited)* Location: Devens Common Center Buffet Lunch Cost: $15.00 (pre-registration required)

Register online at www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa or fax a MFA Registration Form to 978-567-3229 ◆

Danvers Explosion

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sion was caused by an intentional criminal act." He added, "The cause and origin investigation is ongoing. The investigative team has determined that a single explosion event took place inside the 10,000 square foot structure and that additional explosion events were the result of the first one. We have identified several areas of interest that we will continue to investigate as well as identify possible ignition sources in those areas."

Coan added, "We have conducted our scene examination in the least intrusive manner possible in order to preserve it as closely as possible to the pre-blast condition for the chemical investigators. Our investigation is on-going as we analyze the data collected during the scene examination and will benefit enormously from the findings of the EPA's Chemical Investigation Unit and the Chemical Safety Board."

The fire and explosion is being jointly investigated by the members of the Danvers Fire Department, Danvers Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and investigators from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will coordinate the remediation and removal of the hazardous chemicals and conduct its chemical investigation in close coordination with the Chemical Safety Board, which is conducting its independent investigation.

Coan said, "We are grateful for the work and expertise of the regional Hazardous Materials Response teams, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and specialized expertise that the Chemical Safety Board can bring." ◆

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in diluting and diverting vapors, a review and walk around of the LNG transporter including safety features, a metering and thermal imaging station, and a high expansion foam training group. Day two was all hands-on. Controlling, diverting, and diluting of LNG vapor clouds was accomplished along with vapor control of LPG to show the difference in how the gases behave and how to control them. The use of high expansion foam and how it affects burning LNG was also demonstrated. Evolutions in LNG under pressure fires were conducted with all participants. Students practiced an organized and systemic approach to a vapor release using multiple hose streams for protection. The exercise had special emphasis on command officers practicing command roles during this training.

The state of the art gas field...
...is only part of the story.

Research Project

A research project was conducted this fall in our gas field by Dr. Phani Raj the president of Technology and Management Systems, Inc. under a grant from the United States Department of Transportation and Suez Energy. Dr. Raj has over thirty years of professional experience in conducting safety research and assessing risks in the storage, transportation, handling and utilization of hazardous materials including LNG. The testing consisted of measuring the heat output from burning LNG and how it affects the human body. This was repeated many times with the final test observed by many state and federal government officials, as well as representatives from NFPA and Sandia National Laboratories. We look forward to seeing the results of the study published.

Instructors

The state of the art gas field with all the potential it brings, is only part of the story. The most important and critical part of this training is the dedicated and talented instructors that work with the students. They insure that every participant has a thorough, complete and extensive learning experience with the most important feature: “having a safe training day and leaving the academy safe and more informed.” The instructors dedicate themselves to not only teaching the students, but to making sure the training is correct, pertinent and important to their roles as protectors of the public welfare and infrastructure. The participants, the officials, and I recognized the amount of time and effort that the instructors dedicate to make sure all gas programs are top notch. I saw the instructors come together and work flawlessly to make sure that the correct message was delivered. Truly an example of “professionals training professionals.” ◆

Recruit Class #173 Graduates State Firefighting Academy

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Laurent R. McDonald were honored to preside at the graduation of the 173rd Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s sixty day Recruit Firefighting Program on September 29, 2006.

72 Graduates From 40 Fire Departments

The seventy-two graduates, four women and 68 men, represent the forty fire departments of: Amherst, Bedford, Belmont, Beverly, Blackstone, Bridgewater, Cambridge, Danvers, Dracut, Framingham, Franklin, Gloucester, Greenfield, Halifax, Hanover, Haverhill, Ipswich, Leominster, Lexington, Lincoln, Lowell, Mendon, Norfolk, North Andover, North Attleboro, Northborough, Randolph, Raynham, Rockland, Sandwich, Southborough, Stoughton, Tewksbury, Wakefield, Watertown, Westfield, Westport, Wilbraham, Woburn, and Yarmouth.

Recruit Class #173 *Photo by Sue Peltier*

Lieutenant Kevin M. Galligan Guest Speaker

Lieutenant Kevin M. Galligan of the Brockton Fire Department, who is also a Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructor, addressed the recruits.◆

From the Certification Group of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

By Richard Connelly, Coordinator of Certification

Firefighters in the Commonwealth have been participating in the certification process since 1988. We are now in our 18th year of certifying firefighters in the various levels offered. Last year over 1,400 certificates were issued. The certification office is staffed by examiners who have been selected, trained and qualified from the ranks of fire instructors at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and is overseen by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

Most individuals know that after completion of the certification process, both Massachusetts and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. (The Pro Board) recognize that an individual has met a standardized level of performance. Since July 1, 2006 a joint certificate is now sent to all qualifying firefighters.

After training to the recognized NFPA standards, a firefighter is tested to assure that he or she meets the criteria involved in being trained to a nationally recognized level of performance.

Certification has a new meaning this year in addition to the usual one with which most firefighters are familiar. Beginning with the November 2006 Civil Service promotional examination, points are being credited to an applicant for each level of certification that is obtained. This is shown on the education and experience rating sheet under the heading of continuing education credits, section IVc. Now, firefighters who have strived to reach a particular level, have another way to be credited for their achievements.

In addition to the levels of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, Fire Investigator, Public Fire Educator I, Haz Mat Technician, and Haz Mat Awareness/Operational the Massachusetts Fire Training Council now offers Fire Instructor II, Driver Operator/Aerial, Driver Operator/Pumper, Safety Officer, and Airport Rescue Firefighter. In the near future, technical rescue certifications will be offered starting with rope, trench and confined space rescue. Keep your eyes on the website for announcements.

If any questions arise concerning the certification process, Coordinator Rick Connelly or Assistant Coordinators Don Hurme and Paul Ford will be pleased to answer them. Any registration concerns should be addressed to the Administrative Assistant, Julie Kilbride at 978-567-3228. You can also review certification information, schedules and gain access to applications on the web at www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa/cert. ◆

Recruit Class #174 Graduates State Firefighting Academy

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Laurent R. McDonald were honored to announce the graduation of the 174th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty day Recruit Firefighting Program on December 22, 2006.

70 Graduates From 42 Fire Departments

The seventy graduates, two women and 68 men, represent the forty-two fire departments of: Agawam, Arlington, Athol, Attleboro, Auburn, Blackstone, Canton, Cohasset, Cotuit, Danvers, Duxbury, Foxborough, Framingham, Gloucester, Halifax, Holden, Holyoke, Lincoln, Lowell, Malden, Manchester, Marblehead, Marshfield, Middleborough, Middleton, Milford, Nantucket, Natick, Newburyport, North Reading, Northampton, Norton, Plainville, Sandwich, Scituate, Somerville, Wakefield, Wayland, Westfield, Winchester, and Winthrop.

Recruit Class #174 *Photo by Sue Peltier*

Boston Fire Chief Kevin MacCurtain, Guest Speaker

Chief Kevin MacCurtain, a 34-year veteran of the Boston Fire Department, who currently serves as Chief of Department addressed the recruits. Chief MacCurtain has also served as an instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) and as a program coordinator for the MFA Gas School. ◆

Code Compliance & Enforcement

BFPR Creates Additional Carbon Monoxide Regulations

After months of subcommittee work and consultation with stakeholders, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) promulgated additional regulations on the requirement for carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at its September 7, 2006 meeting. The board developed initial regulations on carbon monoxide alarms in one- and two-family homes and multi-family dwellings quickly after "Nicole's Law" was passed. It took longer to research the technical issues around adding carbon monoxide alarms in buildings with complex heating, ventilation and alarm systems.

What Types of Buildings Are Affected?

These supplemental regulations govern other types of residential buildings where people generally do not live permanently, such as hotels and motels, hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. The new regulations will also affect day care facilities licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care; home day cares were already covered by the previous regulations. The previous regulations will govern small hotels, those with less than six rooms like a bed and breakfast. Only buildings with a potential source of carbon monoxide are affected.

Summary of the New Regulations

These newly regulated more "transient" types of residential occupancies must either install carbon monoxide alarms in every room and on every level, or adopt one of the six technical options for protection, labeled A-F in the regulation. The technical options allow owners to target the CO alarm protection only in those areas (i.e., rooms that contain boilers, hot water heaters, central laundry areas, and enclosed parking areas) that could be potential sources of CO. Most of these technical options include low-voltage wiring, monitoring (i.e., by an alarm company) and certain signal transmission requirements (notification to the fire department.)

What Are the Deadlines?

Owners of transient residential and institutional occupancies, and buildings owned by the Commonwealth and local housing authorities (i.e., public housing) have until January 1, 2008 to install CO protection. In certain limited instances, owner of large residential buildings who notified the local fire department by May 15, 2006 that they intended to take advantage of a technical compliance option must complete installation by January 1, 2007. The March 31, 2006 deadline for locations where hard-wired alarms are not required by the board remains unchanged.

Building Owner/Manager Responsibility

Any building owner or manager who wishes to take advantage of these technical options must obtain a permit from the fire department beginning December 1, 2006.

Additionally, the building owner or operator is responsible for the care and maintenance of the system. They must submit documentation of the inspection, maintenance and testing annually to the head of the fire department.

Emergency Plan for All Personnel

In addition, the building owner or manager must prepare a written emergency plan, available to all personnel and approved by the head of the fire department. There must be an annual review of the plan with all employees of their duties and responsibilities under the plan. Policies and procedures must be developed to communicate the situation immediately to the fire department. There must be an evacuation plan. A list of emergency contact information of responsible parties must be provided to the fire department.

Technical Options

A) Protecting the Rooms with Fossil-Fuel Burning Equipment

The rooms with fossil-fuel burning equipment must have an audible and visual hard-wired alarm in the room that is monitored, and retransmitted.

B) When Certain Kitchen Appliances are Only Source of CO

If the only potential source of CO is a gas kitchen appliance with an electric ignition (like a commercial stove in a dormitory dining area), there must be written certification from a professional engineer that it complies with the plumbing code and only operates when the vent is open.

C) Integrated Shutdown Device

In rooms or areas with fossil-fuel burning equipment, a carbon monoxide alarm with an automatic shut down device can be connected to the equipment. Such a component can be wired to the furnace and shut it down automatically. There are certain signage and restarting restrictions as well.

D) Spaces Adjacent to Enclosed Parking

If the only source of CO is from an enclosed parking area, one option is to install alarms in the adjacent spaces. The alarm must be monitored, and retransmitted.

E) Enclosed Parking with Mechanical Ventilation Systems

This option is an alternative to installation carbon monoxide alarms in the spaces adjacent to enclosed park-

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New CO Regulations

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ing. If an enclosed parking area has an automatic ventilation system, it must automatically operate when a sensor detects 25 PPM of CO and at 50 PPM set off a supervisory alarm to the building's alarm panel; the adjacent spaces do not need carbon monoxide alarms.

If the enclosed parking area has continuous mechanical ventilation in compliance with 780 CMR 2801, and it has a sensor that ensures that airflow is in operation and the sensor monitors direct airflow and will set off a supervisory alarm to the building's alarm panel, then the adjacent spaces do not need carbon monoxide alarms.

F) Protection for Room Mounted Fossil-Fuel Burning Equipment

When the only source of carbon monoxide is from roof-mounted fossil-fuel burning equipment that sends air to common areas only, then the duct must have a CO gas detection device (on the discharge side of the air handling unit) that sends a supervised alarm to the building's system at 50 PPM and the unit must automatically shut-off. Alternatively the sensor can be on the floor closest to the roof-handling unit.

The automatic shutdown requirements in technical options C & F are not applicable to standby or emergency systems. ◆

Advisories from the State Fire Marshal to Heads of Fire Departments

If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western, MA at (413) 587-3181.

Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer

October 1, 2006

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Fire Services has obtained a combination SAFE/ Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer. This trailer was obtained through a United States Fire Administration Fire Prevention Grant and our goal is to utilize this trailer to promote and educate citizens about the benefits of residential sprinklers. If your city/town is currently looking to adopt one or more of the MGL 148, 26 series of laws – this may be a great tool to educate people prior to a city council meeting or a town meeting. At this time, we are going to try and limit its use to cities/towns that are looking to adopt a local option law. As we are rolling out this new resource, we expect to continue to revise the best way to utilize it. At this time, if there is interest in the use of the sprinkler demonstration portion of the trailer, you can contact the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Scheduling Department at (978) 567-3200.

DFS Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer and Fire Safety House

Enclosed were two informational pamphlets from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition that may be reproduced and used to educate citizens in your cities/towns about the effectiveness of residential sprinklers. If you would like copies of these pamphlets in color or more information about residential sprinklers for your department, builders or homeowners please visit their web site at: www.homefiresprinkler.org.

Gov Signs Extension CO Regulation

November 1, 2006

The Governor has signed the bill for the extension of the CO regulation to January 2008. This is now referred to as Chapter 327 of the Acts of 2006. The effect of this amendment is to defer CO installation requirements until January 1, 2008, for the following residential buildings:

- Commonwealth owned buildings
- Local housing authority buildings
- Buildings mandated to have hard wired CO protection (See 527 CMR 31.00). [Note: This does not include buildings that owners have previously notified the fire departments by May 15, 2006 they wished to use a technical compliance option. They must still meet the January 1, 2007 deadline.]

Educational Occupancies and Use of Paper Materials

November 1, 2006

I wish to bring to your attention the issue of flammable paper materials in educational facilities including preschool and day care centers.

Recently, an arson fire in a mixed-use facility (a church housing a pre-school) highlighted a number of fire code violations regarding paper materials in the classroom. Although no one was injured, the presence of non-compliant paper materials in violation of the state fire code should remind us all of the importance of

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inspection and compliance regarding the use of paper in these facilities.

Under the State Building Code, preschool and day care facilities (which provide care for children older than 2 years and 9 months) are classified as a Use Group E (educational use group). These educational use groups are subject to important fire code regulations governing the volume, type, and method of paper displayed in a classroom. These regulations are found at 527 CMR 10.09(5). It is important these regulations be followed to avoid serious problems in the event of a fire. Particular effort should be made to identify these educational facilities in mixed-use groups that may otherwise go unidentified and uninspected.

Board of Fire Prevention Regulations Interpretations

The following are excerpts from letters from Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) Chairman David Demers to Leominster Deputy Chief William Ashton. These are official interpretations by the board of existing fire regulations.

527 CMR 1:06(2) – No Permits for Replacement In Kind

"In your letter you ask if it is the intent of 527 CMR 1.06(2) to require a permit when repairs are performed on any automatic fire protection system.

The Board has formulated the following response:

Repairs or modifications to a system, which involve the replacement in kind of system components does not require a permit as provided in 527 CMR 1.06(2). The Board considers "replacement in kind" to be a replacement which meets the design specifications of the fire protection system.

The Board also notes that in certain circumstances, other permits may be required."

Chapter 148 s26C and the State Building Code

"The provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 §26C and 527 CMR 24 are applicable only to buildings, which were in existence at the time Section 26C was enacted. The statute was intended to retroactively capture existing buildings constructed prior to the adoption of a statewide building code. If a building has been constructed or substantially modified since the adoption of the State Building Code, then it would be required to meet the provisions of the State Building Code rather than Chapter 148 §26C and 527 CMR 24.

Your suggested change to 527 CMR 12 to include a reference to the State Building Code, specifically 780 CMR 3603.16 has been forwarded to the Board's electrical code subcommittee for consideration during the next code cycle.

In response to your question concerning section 110.26 of NFPA-70, it is the Board's opinion that a sprinkler main would be a "foreign system." Foreign systems are permitted provided they meet the requirements of section 110.26(F)(1)(b)." ◆

Code Enforcement Efforts Pay Off in Chelsea

The efforts of the City of Chelsea Fire Prevention Bureau, and the Code Compliance/Enforcement and Fire Protection Engineering units of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), likely prevented a catastrophe. On September 9, 2006, two fire sprinklers activated to control a fire that occurred in a paint manufacturing business. The fire sprinkler system had recently been put back in service and upgraded as a result of a Notice of Violation and Order from the OSFM.

The paint manufacturing business occupies a multistory building that houses large flammable liquid mixing vats, small scale flammable liquid mixing and testing stations, and flammable liquid storage. Chelsea Fire Department contacted the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit after inspecting the facility and finding obvious fire safety concerns. A joint OSFM/Chelsea inspection of the facility revealed dangerous conditions liable to cause and contribute to a fire in the building. They also found conditions that interfered with the efficiency of the fire pro-

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Believe It Or Not!

Here are two photos sent to code compliance officers in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. They seem to fall into the category of unbelievable.

Chelsea Code Enforcement

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tection equipment. Flammable liquid mixing equipment was not properly bonded, no documentation was available to show the fire sprinkler system was being maintained, and storage and hazards in the building indicated the capabilities of the fire sprinkler system had been exceeded.

The business was ordered to have a fire protection engineer conduct a life safety analysis of the building, evaluate the fire sprinkler system design, and correct any deficiencies. Subsequently, the business submitted an evaluation report from a fire protection consultant. A review of the report by the OSFM fire protection engineer revealed that, although some deficiencies were disclosed, the report was based on a cursory review of the facility and not the complete analysis required by the OSFM order.

After being informed of the noncompliant report, the business retained the fire protection consultant for a complete analysis. The results of that analysis revealed that the fire sprinkler system was significantly under designed for the hazards, many areas of the facility had no sprinkler protection whatsoever, and fire sprinkler system components were in disrepair. After concurrence between the complete report and OSFM/Chelsea of the deficiencies and remedies, the business hired contractors that installed a new larger underground fire service main connection to upgrade the capabilities of the fire sprinkler system, installed protection in all areas of the building, and made necessary repairs to put the system into full service.

When the fire occurred at this facility, the properly designed and installed sprinkler system performed as expected and contained the fire until the fire department arrived. Without the corrections to this sprinkler system, the Chelsea Fire Department would have had an enormous and dangerous fire on its hands. ◆

Fireworks, Perchlorate and Drinking Water Supplies

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated in July 2006 a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 2 μg/l (parts per million) for perchlorate, becoming the first state in the nation to regulate this contaminant.

Now that a Massachusetts MCL is in place, the focus has shifted to actions that can be taken to prevent or minimize uncontrolled releases of perchlorate to the environment. This is of particular concern in areas that could affect public and private drinking water supplies since perchlorate is highly water-soluble and can travel significant distances in groundwater with minimal attenuation or biodegradation. Drinking perchlorate-contaminated water can affect the function of the thyroid gland, which regulates the body's metabolism.

Fireworks are one of the common products that use perchlorate compounds, and perchlorate has been detected in groundwater where fireworks displays have occurred. Based upon the potential for fireworks displays to be a source of groundwater contamination, several communities have expressed concern about continuing with fireworks displays in the future. By implementing the steps set forth below, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) believes communities may continue with fireworks displays while protecting drinking water supplies.

First, perchlorate contamination of groundwater resulting from fireworks displays tends to be localized. This underscores the importance of *distance*: distance between the launch and deposition areas and nearby public and private drinking water supplies and recharge areas. To the extent possible the launch and deposition areas should be located outside the Zone II (recharge area) of a water supply well. The locations of public and private water supply wells, recharge areas and surface water supplies are available through local officials and can be viewed on-line at http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/

Second, the *cleanup and proper disposal of* unburned paper debris, shell fragments and duds that collect on the ground following a fireworks display is critical. This material can contain substantial amounts of perchlorate. Collection of this material is a requirement of every fireworks permit. If the fireworks display site (including both launch and deposition areas) is not cleaned up in a timely manner, the next rainfall can easily wash perchlorate into the groundwater.

Finally, it is also prudent to request low (or no) perchlorate-containing fireworks. This may require that you make inquiries with your suppliers and/or manufacturers.
Following these simple steps, MassDEP is confident that fireworks displays can continue to provide enjoyment to the thousands of Massachusetts' residents who attend such events every year -- without posing undue public health risks or problems to the environment. MassDEP recommends that public water suppliers also work closely with local fire chiefs, who enforce permits issued for fireworks displays in their communities.

You may contact Rose Knox at the MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) at 617-556-1026 or Rosemary.Knox@state.ma.us if you would like additional information, or please refer to the following link on MassDEP's Website: http://mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/percinfo.htm ◆

Plans Review Desk

The description of a building as being "sprinklered throughout" can carry different meanings depending on the design and installation standard used as the basis for the fire sprinkler system. The three standards referenced in the *Massachusetts State Building Code* (*MSBC*) for fire sprinkler systems are NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, NFPA 13R, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height*, and NFPA 13D, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*. Even though many building codes consider a building appropriately protected to any one of these standards as sprinklered throughout, the level of protection afforded is not the same.

The requirements of NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D are intended to primarily provide for life safety of the occupants of the building. Fire sprinkler systems designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D are not intended to keep the building from burning down. Fire sprinkler systems designed to these two standards are intended to allow for the occupants of the building to escape without casualties. A fire sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13 is intended to provide life safety and protect the property.

The type of system required for a building is generally driven by the *MSBC*. A few *MSBC* sections that uniquely impact the type of system allowed are: *MSBC*:310.5, which drives the required fire sprinkler system type for Use Group R-3 buildings (townhomes) based on the rating of the fire separations between dwelling units; *MSBC*:313.1.2, which requires that the fire sprinkler system comply with NFPA 13 if a reduction in required fire resistance separation ratings is applied due to installed fire sprinkler protection; *MSBC*:506.3, which requires that the fire sprinkler system comply with NFPA 13 if a maximum allowable building area increase is applied due to installed fire sprinkler protection; and *MSBC*:904.7, which permits a modified NFPA 13D system in three-family Use Group R-2 buildings ("triple-deckers"). However, when the fire sprinkler system is required by a Section of Chapter 148 in the *Massachusetts General Laws*, the applicable type of system specified by Appendix A in the *MSBC* is not modified by the above referenced *MSBC* Sections.

How to contact an OSFM Fire Protection Engineer: for jurisdictions south of the Mass Pike - contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or Jacob.Nunnemacher@DFS.State.ma.us. For jurisdictions north of the Mass Pike - contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or Dana.Haagensen@DFS.State.ma.us ◆

Fallen Firefighters Memorial

On Monday, October 16, 2006 state and local officials broke ground on the fallen firefighters memorial at Ashburton Park outside the State House on Bowdoin Street. The memorial is expected to be completed in June. It will feature a sculpture of three firefighters battling a blaze in the center and is surrounded by a "ring of honor" that will include bricks engraved with the names of deceased firefighters. The memorial is designed to provide a site where people can gather and reflect upon our fallen heroes.

Unveiling New Firefighters License Plate

Also unveiled at the event was the new Firefighters Memorial license plate. When people purchase the special plates, they will be supporting the construction and upkeep of the memorial. The Legislature appropriated $250,000 to kick off the project and nearly $1 million has been raised through private and corporate donations.

For more information about the project, see their website at www.mafirememorial.org or call (888) 275-3473(FIRE). ◆


Groundbreaking at Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Public Education

February 4 - 10, 2007 – Burn Awareness Week

Burn Awareness Week, observed the first full week in February, is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week, is an excellent opportunity to "kick off" a year full of burn awareness education and will be observed February 4-10, 2007.

Statutory Authority for M-BIRS in MGL 112, Section 12A

According to Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 112, Section 12A, the treatment of all burn injuries extending over 5% or more of a person's body surface area must be reported immediately to the State Fire Marshal.

In 2005, the twenty-first full year of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), 47 acute care hospitals and other health care facilities reported 369 victims of burns. Forty-two of these 369 victims received care at two Massachusetts hospitals and were reported to the system twice. M-BIRS was established in the Department of Public Safety in 1984 as a tool to help fire service and law enforcement personnel identify arsonists that may have been burned while setting fires. M-BIRS, along with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, was carried over to the Department of Fire Services in 1996. It remains a joint program of the Department of Fire Services and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The "Burn Registry" also provides valuable data on the nature of the burn problem in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts is renowned for its medical institutions and in particular for the advanced treatment available for burn and trauma victims. Many advances in treatment that have lead to increased ability for victims to survive serious burn injuries took place in Massachusetts. Those advances started in the desperate days after the deadly 1942 nightclub fire at Boston's Cocoanut Grove and continue today.

M-BIRS Has Two Main Purposes Identifying Arsonists and Burn Prevention

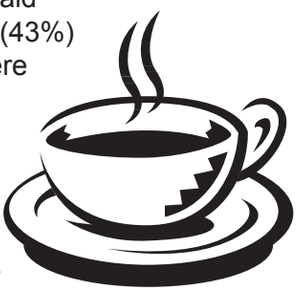
Data collected by the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System is used in several ways. Investigators use the data to determine if an arsonist was treated for a burn that resulted from an attempt to illegally burn a building or vehicle. If these burns are not reported promptly, arsonists may continue to light fires that threaten life and property.

Scalds Caused Over 1/3 of Reported Burn Injuries

Scalds have been the leading cause of burn injuries for the past 20 years. In 2005, scalds caused 130, or 35%, of the burn injuries reported to M-BIRS. Spilled hot beverages caused the majority of scald burns. Hot tap water, cooking liquids and grease, and hot food also caused scald burns.

Keep Hot Liquids Away from Babies and Preschoolers

In 2005, young children were the most frequent victims of scald burns. Forty-three percent (43%) of the 130 scald victims were under five years old, and most were less than one year old. Children under five years of age were seven times more likely to be scalded. Hot beverages posed the greatest risk to young children; parents and caregivers of young children must remember that it is dangerous to drink coffee or tea while holding a baby.



Public Education Materials Available

The Department of Fire Services has educational material available for use by fire departments, health professionals, teachers and the general public. It can be found online at www.mass.gov/dfs and clicking on fire prevention, public education, and fire safety topics. Look for the pamphlets entitled *Burn Prevention* and *Kids and Hot Water Safety*. Additional materials can be found on the American Burn Association's website at www.ameriburn.org. ◆

Haas, Coan Present 2006 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award

At 12th Annual Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference Public Safety Secretary Robert C. Haas and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the *2006 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* to Firefighter David R. Simon of North Adams at a ceremony held as part of the *12th Annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference*. The two-day conference was held at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, September 28-29, 2006.

Secretary Haas said, "I want to thank all the educators in this room for the hard work they do, day in and day out to prevent fires and injuries." He added, "We are especially proud to honor the efforts of those nominated for the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award."

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2006 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award

Firefighter David R. Simon of North Adams received the 2006 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award for his wide-range of fire and life safety education programs and his efforts beyond just his own community. Seven finalists were also honored: Middleboro Firefighter Larry Fahey, Monson Assistant Chief George Robichaud, Needham Firefighter Shawn F. Donovan, Taunton Firefighter Nathan Vasconcellos, Wayland Lt. Daniel Buentello, Wellesley Lt. Paul Delaney, and Westfield Firefighter FF Ray Nielsen.

Coan said, "This conference always launches fire educators enthusiastically into Fire Prevention Week in early October."

Over 250 Firefighters, School Professionals, Nurses, and Law Enforcement Attended

Over 250 firefighters, EMTs classroom teachers, school administrators, safety officers, and resource officers, nurses, elder service workers, health educators and other injury prevention professionals attend this two day conference. The conference offered core workshops for new fire and life safety educators, workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep all life safety educators current, and workshops to continue to challenge and develop the skills of more experienced life safety educators. ◆

(L-R) Haas, Buentello, Delaney, Vasconcellos, David Simon, 2006 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year, Nielsen, Robichaud, Donovan, Coan

Massachusetts Fire Educator Receives National Honor

FF/ EMT Bonnie Lopez of Upton was one of three recipients of the National Firemark Awards from Liberty Mutual. FF Lopez was initially recognized at a selectmen's meeting in August with the local Liberty Mutual *Firemark Award* for her work in educating the school children of Upton. As a result of the award Bonnie was entered into the national award program and was chosen from among 150 nominees. The award ceremony was held at the New York City Fire Museum and then she was asked to represent the department at the "Where's the Fire?" safety exhibit at Epcot in Disney World. In addition, each of the three award winner's fire department's received a $10,000 grant.

Firefighter / EMT Bonnie Lopez (center)

Upton Fire Chief Michael Bradford said, "I am very proud of the work FF/EMT Bonnie Lopez does to educate all segments of our community from the school children through the S.A.F.E. Program through adults in our Citizen's Fire Academy or speaking with our seniors." Bonnie Lopez was one of the first fire educators in Massachusetts to be certified by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council as a Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I. ◆

MFIRS Corner

MFIRS Coding Tips for Heating Fires

Winter is here. People will be turning on the heat so expect heating related incidents to increase. Also with the cost of home heating oil and natural gas at near record highs, we expect more people to turn to alternate heating sources like fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters. And with the increased use comes an increase in fire risk. Here are a few coding tips:

Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction

- Incident Type: Type = 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined
- Basic Module only if fire is confined.

Chimney or Flue Fire

- Incident Type = 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney or Flue.
- Basic Module only if fire is confined.

Unconfined Heating Structure Fires

- Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module
- Incident Type: 111-112 or 120-123 – structure fire, mobile home
- Heat Source: 10-13 – heat from operating equipment or 43 – hot ember/ash
- Type of Material First Ignited: 11-12, gas, 25, oil/kerosene, 34, creosote, 56, coal;
- Equipment Involved in Ignition 120-152 – heating equipment
- Equipment Power Source Required.
- Equipment Portability Required: 1 – Portable or 2- Stationary.

Some examples are:

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in a portable building –

- Incident Type = 123, structure fire in mobile property: ex. construction trailer
- Heat Source = 12 – radiated heat from equipment
- Item First Ignited = 32 - bedding
- Type of Material First Ignited = 71 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 – space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 12 - electric
- Equipment Portability = 1 - portable.

Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite the carpeting in the room on fire –

- Incident Type = 111 – building fire
- Heat Source = 43 – hot ember/ash
- Item First Ignited = 14 - rug
- Type of Material First Ignited = 70 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 123 - stove
- Equipment Power Source = 41 - wood
- Equipment Portability = 2 - stationary

Kerosene heater ignites an interior wall in a mobile home (being used as a fixed structure) –

- Incident Type = 121 – mobile home
- Heat Source = 12 – radiated heat from equipment
- Item First Ignited = 15 – interior wall covering
- Type of Material First Ignited = 65 – particle board
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 –space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 33 - kerosene
- Equipment Portability = 1 – portable.
- Chimney fire in 1-Family
- Incident Type = 111, building fire
- Heat Source: 11, flame from operating equipment (fireplace)
- Item First Ignited: 95, chimney film or residue
- Type of Material First Ignited: 34, creosote
- Equipment Involved: 126, brick chimney
- Equipment Power Source: 41, wood
- Equipment Portability: 2, stationary

2006 Incident Report Submissions Now Over-Due

By the printing and distribution of this **All Hands Herald**, calendar year 2006 will be behind us. Every fire department should have submitted their incident reports for Jan-Dec 2006. If all of the reports have not been sent, please submit them as soon as possible. If there are any problems submitting them, please contact Derryl Dion at the number below and let him know. If a department did not have any reportable fires or explosions in 2006 please have the chief or head of the department sign the **Certified No Reportable Fires** certificate that will soon be mailed to them.

2006 Year-End Quality Control & Feedback Reports

By the end of February 2007, all chiefs will be receiving their 2006 year-end quality control and feedback reports. Please check these reports carefully, especially the fields: civilian fire deaths, fire service deaths and total dollar loss for complete accuracy. If there are any errors or omissions, please contact us as soon as possible.

Our goal is to begin the 2006 analysis cycle in May and to complete the 2006 MFIRS Annual Report by the end of July 2007. We cannot do this without your help and attention to detail. All reports must be submitted by the end of February and all quality control corrections must be completed by the end of April.

Assistance

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst/MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ◆

Licensing Exams

Licenses

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm. ◆

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

2007 Exam Schedule

Examination	Deadline Date	Examination Date
Cannon/Mortar	January 29	February 7
Fireworks	April 30	May 10
Special Effects	August 6	August 15
Blasting	November 5	November 15
Fire Extinguishers	January 12	January 24
	April 9	April 19
	July 16	July 25
	October 22	October 31

Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ◆

Compliance and Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
Blasting Certificate of Competency			
Peter Januskiewiecz	Suspension and re-test	5 year suspension effective 9/11/06, w/ 3 years to serve	9/11/11
Fireworks Certificate of Competency			
Justin Filiault		Voluntarily surrendered license on 2/1/2006	
Harry F. Cotterly	Suspension and re-test	1 year suspension w/ 6 months to serve & 6 months probation	12/8/07
Fire Suppression Certificate of Competency			
Paul J. King	Suspension and re-test	3 year suspension w/ 2 years to serve & 1 year probation	12/8/09
Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency			
James Tecce	Permenant Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	